# The New Global Game

## Inside the Geopolitical Battle Shaping Our World

## *Preface*

We are back after a 3-year gap, this time rebooted with more hope of regularity and with lots of ideas to bring to you, our beloved readers. Welcome to the 8 Pillars presentation,

# "The Social Sips."

The Social Sips is a magazine that, from its inception, has had various mottos. We want to break conformity first, and we have also brought together people with various ideas under one umbrella—literally to fight through any means, whether politically or ideologically. This magazine will have many dissenting opinions expressed through various writers who have one thing in common: they all agree to disagree.

To give examples of **how far we all disagree**, I have seen Ms. Exis write about capitalism on 8pillars, where she literally villainized the entire idea. Alright, it's the way she sees the idea, and I am a person who believes in free market capitalism; capitalism cannot be brought under any formula—this would be my opinion. Tendollar, who always emphasizes the importance of art, views it as what humanity is created for, and he would watch the movie *Dead Poets Society* for the rest of his life, whereas everyone who says "Art saved my life" has a quite exaggerated view, in my opinion. Finally, introducing Ms. GJ, who has a lot of investigative approaches toward every matter, which eventually led her to be a master of none—a jack of all trades who can give opinions about any topic with a good understanding. This may be taken as our brief team introduction and also as an explanation of how our writers have a spectrum of thinking.

Do we have an **editorial policy**? Yup, we do, and the editorial policy relies on one thing: that none of our writers' intensity of criticism or any expression would be under toned. That's our editorial policy.

**To set the tone**, just imagine you, the reader, and also us, the writers, are sitting in a coffee shop, and we discuss something about politics or art or philosophy—anything—but your expression would be delayed until the next release. Yes, any criticism of any of our opinions will be published in the next magazine as it is. If we feel the need to refute the reply will follow.

**What You Shall Expect from *The Social Sips***

We have a few sessions in this magazine as entertainment and thought-provoking segments to present to you.

**Social Grain** is a session where Ms. Exis will present and review any idea that has had a lot of impact on human development, and she will give you both an academic and critical approach.

**Reengineered Thought** will be written by Mr. PB (me), where you will find a mixture of thoughts derived from history, politics, and socioeconomics—those things linked with current affairs.

**Irrelevant Questions and Random Answers** is a session that will be dealt with by Ms. GJ. Here, she will shoot answers from her perspective as advice, maybe bad advice, or maybe as a rebuttal to the questions you email us via mail@mail.com.

**The Book Review** will be dealt with by any of our writers who encounter an extraordinary book, which will motivate you to read it.

**The Da Vinci Session** is where we will collect an original painting from our artists and present it to you.

**Contemporary Philosopher** is where our mate Mr. AK will give you beautiful philosophy in the form of an article.

**Decoding Cinema** is a session where our pal Tendollar will criticize the idea of an overrated cinema or will ask you to join his party of celebration in appreciating a good underrated movie.

From the following weeks, the best of your contributions (criticisms are most welcomed) will take place under the section **"Actually, I Thought to Say."**

***-PB***

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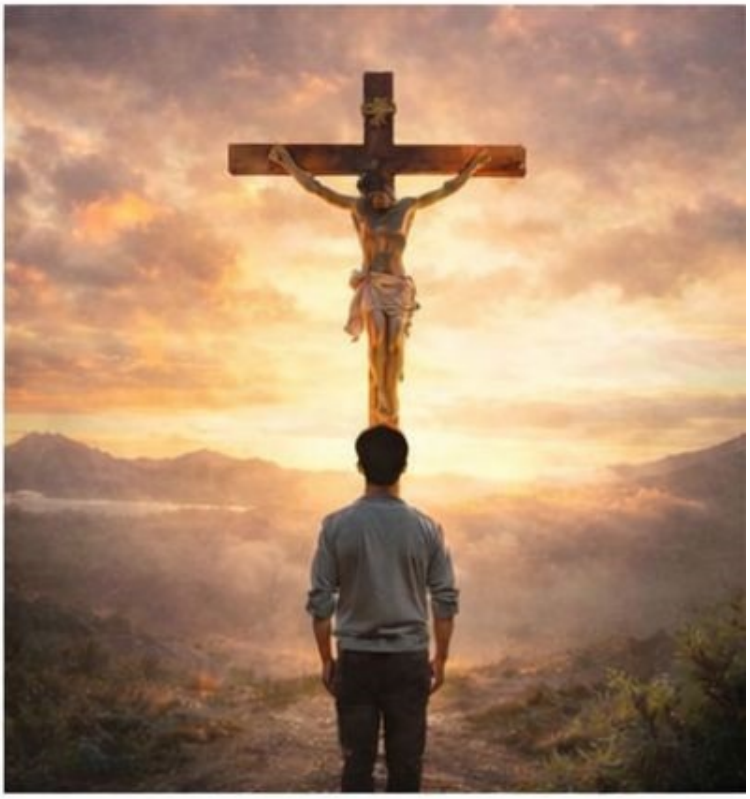
PILLARS

# HEDONISM

## HEDONISM

How does the idea of living for pleasure resonate with you? Hedonists would say the ultimate purpose of man's existence in this solitary-rocky-life supporting ball is **PLEASURE**. This assertion might impinge and ick one's "conditioned" moral conscience. The religious scriptures have preached for eons that "Suffering is Universal" as a fundament axiom that God has weaved in the double-helix structure of the human genome. While the crucifixion of Christ figurines eternally reminds the suffering of Christ for humanity, on the other hand, Bhagavath Gita promises of a transcendental planet devoid of any human predicament. These ideas served antidote to the existential lal weight of what Nietzsche would call, "**to live is to suffer**."



But if one views life with Sartean existentlism, one is compelled to confront that a homo sapien is a sum of the choices made and their inevitable consequences. So, some people choose to live for **pleasure** by their own **pleasure**

# HEDONISM

## Digging the grounds

A vestige of the earliest thoughts on hedonism can be traced as far as the oldest epic known to humanity, Epic of Gilgamesh (2100 BCE) in ancient Mesopotamia.

Goddess Siduri advises the Sumerian King Gilgamesh to pursue worldly pleasures. The line echoes,

**"But you, Gilgamesh, let your belly be full,**
**enjoy yourself always by day and by night!**
**Make merry each day, dance and play day and night!"**

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But the epic does not carry these sentiments throughout. Even in the Egyptian paintings in the tombs, one could notice the harper entertaining guests at a feast.

Sumerian and Egyptian accounts do not provide a complete guide to Hedonism 101. But philosophical traditions or schools propagating hedonism can be found in most of the earliest thriving human societies. Because, who would not want to live for pleasure? Here would cover the foundation of Hedonism in the western world through **Aristippus'** ideas and similarly in the Eastern tradition through Charvaka School in ancient India and Yangism in China.

## Aristippus in the 5th century BCE.

Aristippus, who lived in the 5th century BCE, can be traced back to Athens and unsurprisingly mentored by the Athenian Guru Socrates. He is believed to have founded the **Cyrenaic school** (after his birthplace Cyrene).

The school primarily practised skepticism of knowledge by foregrounding the limitation of one's perception and experience in the material world.

They were empiricists in every sense. But unlike modern empiricists, they did not rely on electron microscopes or sophisticated supercomputers to run their analysis.

They relied on their mind and bodily experience by emphasising the **affect** or **pathos.** Thus pleasure as bodily function becomes relevant to the discussion in the ethical lines of this school. Thus, through one's experience and perception pleasure becomes the chief good and their choices are aligned to maximise the pleasure filled experience. However, the school's legacy did not live long enough to materialise their ideas beyond 3rd century BCE.

## .Charvaka school in India (circa 500 BCE)

In the Indian counterpart, Charvaka school, also known as **Lokakyata** philosophy, developed with similar principles as one of earliest empiricists and sceptics in Indian tradition. The school dates back around 500 BCE, Brihaspati, philosoher, is considered to be the founding figure of this school and whose ideas were laid down in their foundational text **Brihaspati Sutra**. The Charvakas rejected the ideas of God and **after life**, marking a staunch departure from traditional Indian schools of thought. They foregrounded perception and conditionals as the primary form of epistemological means of knowledge formation. The etymology of the school remains unclear, a grammarian points out that the name **Charvaka** could derive from the root word **"Chary"** means "to chew" As they were skeptics, they prioritisee d one's interest over casts doubt in one's knowledge and perception in the Cartesian sense of "I think therefore I am".

Or the founder the school, **Charvaka**, In the ethical lines, they believed in an **individualistic** philosophy by prioritising one's interest over the utilitarian interest. Similar to the Cyrenaics, **Charvakas emphasised pleasure** as the only intrinsic good on the grounds of perceptual awareness and **individual interest.** Charvakas encouraged sensual pleasure without any form of pain. Thus, they school approach to philosophy, metaphysics and ethics was readical enough to be considered derogatory by Indian philosophical schools.

## Yangism in China (circa 500 BCE)

Yangism also dates back around the 500 BCE in the Warring State period, founded by Yang Chu. The school's ideals were similar to that of Charvakas they prioritised **self interest** and human actions should be directed towards it. They also considered the telos of human life as **pleasure**, though no detailed texts survived today.

Mencian, a contemporary Confucian **philosopher**, attacked Yangism for being **selfish** and lacking public interest. Unlike the above two schools, their ethical approach towards pleasure doesn'i stem from scepticism or empiricism, but they saw the nature of all beings to be self-interested and to preserve one's true nature.

Regardless of the school or the philosophy, they were **criticised** by their contemporary schools for prioritising self interest over interest of common good. So, how do you feel about that? Does living for oneself and putting self interest first sound selfish or that's should be the purpose of life?

# The *Notebook* (2004) Review: Love, Like Memory, Refuses to Fade

Some films feel like a warm cup of coffee on a rainy day. *The Notebook* feels like the rain itself—soft at first, then suddenly heavy, unstoppable, and impossible to ignore.

Directed by Nick Cassavetes, *The Notebook* (2004) has long lived in pop culture as the romantic tearjerker, the movie people reference when they want to talk about soulmates, grand gestures, and love that doesn't know when to quit. But watching it now, it's clear the film isn't only famous because it's emotional. It's famous because it understands something uncomfortable: love can be beautiful and exhausting at the same time.

At the center of it all are Noah Calhoun (Ryan Gosling) and Allie Hamilton (Rachel McAdams)—two people who meet in the kind of summer that feels like it was designed to be remembered. Noah is persistent in a way that could easily feel overdone in another movie, but Gosling plays him with a boyish sincerity that makes his stubbornness believable. Allie, on the other hand, is warmth and fire wrapped in privilege. She's not a quiet, passive heroine waiting to be swept away. McAdams gives her a sharpress that keeps the romance from turning into a simple fantasy.

Their relationship isn't built on polite conversations and perfect timing. It's built on impulsive decisions, unfiltered emotion, and arguments that sound too real to be written. They fight like people who don't know how to love gently yet. They love like people who can't help themselves. And while the film is undeniably romantic, it never pretends romance is always calm. In fact. The Notebook almost insists that real love is noisy—full of What makes the story hit harder is that the obstacles aren't cartoonish villains. There's no single enemy you can point to and blame. The enemy is class, expectations, time, and the weight of family influence. Allie is pulled toward a life that looks stable and respectable, while Noah represents something riskier: love that asks her to choose with her heart instead of her upbringing. It's a conflict that feels old—fashioned on the surface, but painfully modern in its meaning. Most people don't lose love because they stop caring. They lose it because life gets complicated.

Cassavetes directs the film with a softness that works in its favor. The colors feel like faded photographs. The settings—porches, lakes, long roads, open skies—carry the kind of nostalgia that makes you think of a memory you didn't even live through. The atmosphere is gentle, but the emotions aren't. The film knows how to slow down and let moments breathe, and that's exactly why the heartbreak lands. It doesn't rush past the longing. It lets it sit there.

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Of course, *The Notebook* has scenes that have become iconic—especially the rain-soaked reunion that feels like romance turned up to maximum volume. It's dramatic, almost too perfect, and yet it works because by that point you aren't watching with logic anymore. You're watching with your guard down. That's the film's secret weapon: it doesn't try to convince you with realism. It convinces you with feeling.

But the real reason *The Notebook* stays with people isn't the young love. It's what the story becomes when it shifts into something deeper—something quieter and far more haunting. The film isn't just asking whether Noah and Allie belong together. It's asking whether love can survive time itself. Whether devotion can outlast memory. Whether someone can forget a name, a face, even a lifetime.. and still feel something familiar in their bones.

That's where *The Notebook* stops being just a romance and turns into something else entirely. It becomes a story about holding on. About choosing the same person again and again, even when the world tries to pull you apart—and even when your own mind betrays you. It's tender in a way that sneaks up on you. One moment you're watching a love story, and the next you're thinking about your own life, your own people, and the terrifying idea of losing them slowly.

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Yes, it's emotional. Yes, it's unapologetically sentimental. But that's also its strength. *The Notebook* doesn't care about being cool or subtle. It wants to make you feel, and it succeeds—sometimes gently, sometimes like a punch to the chest.

In the end, *The Notebook* is the kind of film you don't just watch once. You return to it at different stages of life, and it hits differently every time. When you're young, it feels like passion. When you're older, it feels like sacrifice. And when you've loved and lost or simply lived long eneugh, it feels like a reminder: the greatest love stories aren't the ones that burn the brightest—they're the ones that refuse to go out.

**4.5/5** ★★★★½

A timeless romance that doesn't just break your heart—it reminds you why having one is worth it.

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# 2025 in the Geopolitical Timeline: What 2026 Could Bring

Every year will have its own importance, and every year will leave its mark to be a big change, but several years have changed the world order and economy and made certain countries stronger than ever before, or it would set the tone for the upcoming collapses.

Maybe it's not all about the year, it's also the events like the Berlin Wall collapse, the American dollar coming out of the gold standard in 1971, Reagan having his motto to collapse the Soviet Union, and the 2007 subprime mortgage crisis.

**What 2026 might bring into life**—will our society collapse? Oh God, such a pessimistic word to begin a year. Maybe it will solve or lay a stone for upcoming peaceful years and a poverty-less world. I pray for such a year. It may be a mystery what God has planned, but we will discuss the situation and characters who are going to run the complete maneuver of 2026 on the geopolitical stage in a critical and analytical view.

Is there a danger that our civilization might collapse? Yes, or maybe no—who knows? Other than God, society collapse might come all of a sudden in decades, like the USSR, or it will take a lot of countries to go into effect, like the Roman Empire did. Was there an opportunity for such an instant before on a global level? Let me recall: it was the time the world war was ovet, and the largest man-made disaster—and also any word for the biggest destruction—happened on the soil of this earth. Post the world order, it was just brewing up there, there were numerous new conflicts among the victorious nations to divide up the colonies of the defeated nations.

North Korea, with the support of the USSR, started the batde which later called the Korean War, when they advanced deep inside South Korea. This led the UN Security Council to intervene and immediately send its forces to support South Korea. The US forces were led by the famous General Douglas MacArthur. After the external support, South Korea advanced deep inside North Korea up to a certain extent near the Chinese border. The newly elected Chinese communist govemment fought the forces, and at one point they were pushed back to where they had started. Almost all the advancements of General MacArthur were nullified by the Chinese forces.

**Here we stop and jump to the next story—the Cold War.**

Then came ore the notable presidents of the US Eisenhower. He he had some shocking idea: To: reduce military expenses in the effort that was being used in the effort to contain communism by using nuclear weapon·ist military bases and ending against communism over the time.

Then came one of the notable presidents of the US Mr. Eisenhower. He had one shocking idea; to reduce military expenses that was being used in the effort to contain communism. He came up with that nuclear weapons used to use by all communist military bases and in conflicts against communism.

Now come back to General MacArthur, he sent a message to then-president Truman regarding using nuclear weapons inew in the Korean War, and what Truman did was dismiss MacArthur, a celebrity general, appoint a new one, and end the war after an agreement. Now imagine Eisenhower being five years earlier than Truman as

President. Can you imagine what their combo would have done after a terrific decade of war? And imagine the nuclear attack and its counter, and it goes on. Civilization would have collapsed, right?

And today it is 2026, so many years after Eisenhower, and we have ended up with Mr. Trump, who is highly eccentric like Mr. Eisenhower, initially. I wrote that he is very much not directly involved in any global conflicts with military hands. By the time I was witting this, Mr. Trump, without having congressional consent, made a military strike on Venezuela, and without having a single casually among American troops, he captured Maduro (the president of Venezuela) and assured his command over the Western Hemisphere and warned the Latin American countries all around.

The reason for the strike seemed very ɹesffective because, literally, there is very little demand for oil for the existing reserves in the open market due to the adoption of EV, and his military strike would even bring down prices as it increases the supply in the ecien market, hecause Venezuelan oil was only bought by China. Maybe the actual message is to China; about the be gble to do a Venezuela to Taiwan in the Eastern Hemisphere? And if yes, go ahead, and let's see how the globe began after that. Hence, to put it short, this year began geopolitically with President. Trump captured the presidential seat, delivering Kamala by high ani, communist propaganda and also by promising he would stop to the Israel and Russia and Europe leadership while proceeding to New York. Once he assumed the seat, he staried deporting illegal immigrants.

Alright, let's see what 2024 and 2025 brought into the world order and what we can expect, in 2024, almost 60 percent of the world population went into the process or electing their leader and electing president. Trump captured the presidential seat, delivering Kamala by hugh anti-communist propaganda and also by promising he woucl stop to the Israel and Russia and Europe leadership while **sarting illegal immigrants.**

President Trump outside the White House, 2026

Shipping containers marked 'CHINA' and 'USA', symbolizing trade tensions

Ukrainian President Zelensky with European leaders

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The important point to be noted in the last year is t that when President Trump tried to arm-twist the Ukrainian head, Mr. Zelensky, the entire Europe stood with Ukraine. This is very notable because Europe has never stood against American interests in the case of global conflict. And another dting is that President Trump tried his best to contain China and also the rest of the world by weaponizing tariffs, in which he was barely successful because China didn't flinch at all over the scene, and one of the biggest victims of the tariff war is India.

Now we come to an eagle-eye's view through the characters that we have on our stage for 2026. First comes Mr. Putin, a patriot-commie who saw the greatest USSR at its peak, almost setting up a nuclear structure in Cuba, which is in kissing distance of America. From that rattling USSR, he saw the Berlin Wall collapse as a KGB agent inside Germany, and he saw the Soviet collapse and the USSR flag being hoisted down, and a restricted Russia being subordinate to China. All these things revolve around his head
with pain, maybe.

Then comes Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China. When it comes to China, It is all about institutional memory. They saw America containing an economic power like Japan through the Plaza Accord and disintegrating the great military power of the Soviet Union through the Cold War and the fall of communism, which made them adapt state-sponsored capitalism. Now they are the world's second-biggest economy and a superpower in Asia, which their predecessor Japan couldn't become before World War II. Now they are the first ideological rival of the USA, where both are economic and military supepervers, and they are literally not making the mistakes their foreruner did.

Then comes Mr. Trump. We already know the date that he is going to demit the office of POTUS, yet this year we have an election for one part of the Senate and Congress, which reduces his power a lot. This will either stop his weaponizing of tariffs if he loses
the election, or make him an even more powerful president with more unexpected activities, although the latter is more unlikely.

If this year Mr. Putin escalates against Germany, and Taiwan is being aggressively acted upon by China like the U.S. did to Venezuela, we should expect the direct entry of the U.S. into the picture, which will polarize the nations to take sides, leading the way to world w... oh, sorry, to the event that should not be named.

Or there is also a very minor chance of these leaders holding hands and going for a stroll, singing a lullaby for the peace of the world. I pray for the latter. Let's see how the rhythm goes.

*—PB*

# TALE / BALD

He was shouting at his late father through the photograph nailed with wall as well as his mother who passed away recently due to liver cancer. She drank too much, not because of her husband death but for his saying "don't drink". She wanted to be an independent woman; sadly she passed away independently because her son didn't take care of her in her last days of suffering and fading beauty with bald head. She was left to sleep on her own feces and urinate and as the end she was dead. He burnt her and threw the ashes into nearby river. He didn't take care of his mother because he was busy with his head which was losing hair vigorously and laying path to be like his father and eventually like his mother. Either of them was bald without their concern, now he was on the list after his dedicated search and try to save his hair, he failed and went bald entirely by the time of his mother's death. Although his mother was set on fire he was more concernced about the barber and blade whose work was happened easy and just a quarter of his head will be shaved. He wept in her demise which was for his hair and his look gone worst. He was entirely wiped, not even a single hair was left to touch, and he did not have to towel his head any more hence he would be on time to lecture with his material. He was an Assistance professor, bloomed this morning. The shouting was continued and ended with the sentence "It is a shame I inheriting only baldness and you left me your drunkard wife to die on me". He dressed up

with a struggle because of his growing belly, could hide his private from his sight, it could only put him in the position of grievance and nothing more.

He entered the college where he hated to work; rushed to sign the attendance with struggled lungs, being unwanted. The class was always boring and unwanted about journalism and the compositions in Mass communication department, which was known to everyone but he took this to be lectured but he simply took his seat and rest for the remaining hours.

Having been bored he would watch outside through window, acting as if he was analyzing the weather for tomorrow news, the truce was the loss of his hair.
In the break he would find himself in bakery with three cigar smoking in one puff with tea and one egg puff. He had to back again to the classes with his lecture for his students or future of journalism or could sit in peace to give some time to his lugs to recover from the disaster.

On the way back to the college his bald head reflected the light around, a stone laid calm in unnoticed road until the sight of bald man had fall to disturb it through a kick that missed and messed the whole circumstance with the fall of bald man. Students rushed to help him to his feet as well as the staffs, all of them were struggled enough to get him up, fetched water.

He was seated there for long time after the absence of crowd, his sight was fixed on road, devastated enough to skip the lecture and walk away to distant land. He kicked the bike to life and drove outside the gate and he was shot at his chest -- he could not understand what was happening but he was fallen again, bleeding on the road, sight was blurring and darkening with his mother's voice screaming, her visual on the shit, she was smiling as a demon.

There grew a crowd of watchers and shouters, ambulance was beckoned, he could hear a man shout, "Police brutality!" and the hands, legs he had was weighed ton, engine was running. Ambulance had arrived to take him to the emergency attention, in meantime the accident had occurred to be an attempt murder hence it would demand FIR.

It was sad case he was a loner who must be saved. He was checked extensively and pulse was counted, heart beat rate then the wound was examined, blood loss must be compensated hence his blood type should be found as well as the stock. Wound was pressed against to stop the blood leak through the whole as the bullet was stuck, it did not manage to blast the way out of flesh, nurse was keen to examine whether it punctured the lung or heart was damaged.

At the crime spot Police were alarmed and the team was there to examine so that it could be investigated further on to find the criminal behind the killing and the motive of it. The bike was shifted to the station and the forensic was analyzing the possibilities and finding details as one cop was investigating the people around to know what exactly took place.

He found that the bullet was launched from the north and went straight into victim's flesh and a lean guy with long hair was running over victim.

The cop wanted more information hence the college management was asked to show their CCTV footage.

At hospital it was all about rushing pump of blood and quick working and Bald man was taken into operation theatre, the legal documents were signed by stranger who was with him all along the path from college gate. He was filled by anesthesia and doped off. Cop was escorted into the college and to the control room with security and principal who was still unclear about the event took place. Either
of them was going to watch it.

THE CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHER

*ISSUE 4*

# The shape of life

Life is like a crossing, where sometimes the journey feels easy and smooth, and at other times it becomes difficult and exhausting. The toughness of life does not always come from the situation itself; often, it is our mindset that makes the journey harder.

Our self-decisions can sometimes lead us in the wrong direction, and even higher-level or bold decisions may end in failure. Going with the flow may help us escape pressure for a while, but it does not always give us clarity. On the other hand, overthinking creates fear, confusion, and delays, making the path feel even heavier.

Finding a balance between awareness and action is the real solution. Life is not about making perfect decisions, but about making conscious and balanced ones. Every experience, whether success or failure, teaches us something valuable and helps us adjust our path. When we stay calm, take small steps, and learn from our experiences, the life journey becomes clearer and more manageable, even during the toughest crossings.

When it comes to mindset, the path is shaped by the mind itself. A strong and calm mind guides us toward better pathways in life.

The right decision shapes the processs and gives direction to our journey.

However, reaching the right decision is where the real challenge begins.

Every right decision makes the life journey smoother and helps us move forward with clarity.

Even in mainstream and difficult situations, the power of the mind plays a vital role.

A focused mindset does not remove problems, but it gives us the strength to face them. In the end, it is the mindset that shapes the path, and the path, in turn, shapes who we become.

# Failure as a Correction, Not an End

Every failure is an experiment—an intellectual process that teaches us how to choose better options and make wiser decisions. What feels like a loss in the moment often becomes preparation for the right opportunity and the right goal. Failure is not meant to stop us, it exists to correct us, to quietly point out what needs to change.

The right way to understand failure is to see it as an option for realignment at every stage of the journey. Within the natural flow of life, each failure offers a chance to adjust our approach. When we respond with honesty toward ourselves, failure transforms into guidance rather than defeat. It redirects us toward a more truthful and stronger version of who we are becoming.

Failure slows us down so that we can see more clearly. It creates space for reflection, awareness, and growth. Avoiding failure only delays progress, but accepting it refines our direction. In the end, failure does not close the path—it reshapes it, turning experience into wisdom and correction into strength.

# The Weight of Overthinking

Overthinking is a way of losing ourselves while trying to become ourselves. One of the major struggles in life is being trapped by excessive thought, where thinking turns into a silent burden. Instead of solving problems, overthinking often leads us toward wrong decisions and unnecessary fear. It creates fears of unseen worries, making simple paths feel complicated and heavy.

Overthinking becomes a constant suspicion running ahead of us, slowing our forward movement. Yet within this struggle lies an important correction. Facing **overthinking** with maturity allows us to rebuild ourselves consciously. Though the **process is difficult,** it teaches self-awareness and inner strength. In learning to face our **thoughts** instead of fighting them, we begin to grow, change, and move forward with greater clarity.

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## Facing Instead of Escaping

Escaping from life is not truly possible. We may try to avoid it, delay it or hide from it, but life continues to move forward. What we often call escape is only postponement. Life itself is a surreal drama—sometimes overwhelming, sometimes confusing—but it is not meant to be avoided. Avoidance may feel easier in the moment, yet it slowly creates inner collapse and emotional exhaustion.

There are many forms of escape. Sometimes we escape mentally, convincing ourselves that we are fine while fear grows inside. Sometimes we escape physically, walking away from situations that demand courage. But neither truly frees us.

Procrastination becomes a silent escape, and silence turns into pressure. Facing life is uncomfortable and often annoying, but it is also clarifying. When we dare to face instead of escape, we create our own path. That path brings clarity, builds strength, and slowly transforms fear into self-trust.

## The Journey Shapes the Self

The journey of life is not merely about crossing from one moment to another; it is about truly living. Life itself is a pure and majestic gift—one that is not given endlessly, but given once, with purpose. This opportunity is rare, and it belongs to you. When you recognize its value, you begin to live more consciously.

Every experience, every chance, and every moment becomes part of shaping your journey. The opportunities life offers are not random, they call for awareness and choice. How we respond to them becomes one of the most important decisions of our life, quietly shaping who we are and who we become.

## The Shape of a Life: Conclusion

Life never truly arrives at a final destination. What we call arrival is often just a pause—a moment after crossing struggles, where we catch our breath and look back. And then comes the quiet question; "what next?" There is no fixed final destination. The natural rhythm of life is always forward—next, and then next again.

Peace does not come from reaching an end, but from accepting this flow. A settled mindset learns to let go, to trust itself, and to move forward without fear. Every ending carries the beginning of a new and awakened journey. When we step into this understanding, success becomes less about achievement and more about alignment.

# DA VINCI CODE

*Issue 4*

## BOOK REVIEW

# AI SNAKE OIL

Every technology, at the time of its inception, carries enormous expectations. Society often believes it will perform miracles in one area, only for its real impact to emerge somewhere entirely different. History repeatedly shows this pattern. When print media was the dominant form of communication, radio rose rapidly and was widely expected to replace newspapers. Later, television replaced radio as the primary broadcast medium—but print media never disappeared.

Similarly, during the early internet boom, a sub-broker from Reliance Capital disrupted traditional brokerage institutions by effectively using the internet for securities management. Later, **Zerodha** transformed the stockbroking industry so drastically that brokerage, as a profession, became a low-paying job compared to its earlier status.

Today, we are witnessing the explosive rise of a two-letter abbreviation: AI. It is being aggressively promoted across every sector—sometimes through fearmongering and sometimes through wildly exaggerated dreams of its capabilities. To put this into perspective, the world's most valuable company, NVIDIA—a GPU manufacturer whose products form the costly foundational units of AI technologies—is now valued at a scale that rivals entire national economies, including India's GDP.

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Every major technology goes through a bubble phase. After that phase bursts, only truly competent companies survive. Those who invested in Amazon after the dot-com bubble made extraordinary returns. In the current era, many believe an AI bubble is inevitable. Ironically, because so many expect this bubble, its burst may be delayed. However, if we are to navigate and capitalize on this phase wisely, we must first demystify AI. The unrealistic expectations—fuelled by two decades of Hollywood fantasies, from sentient machines to Iron Man–style suits—need to be broken down into simple, grounded realities.

This is precisely where Arvind Narayanan, the co-author of AI Snake Oil, offers invaluable clarity. A professor at Princeton University—an institution of global academic significance—Narayanan explains AI not as magic, but as a tool with clear limits. The book provides a grounded understanding of where AI is genuinely headed and how it may relistically improve society.

The book is especially insightful when it examines the real-world failures faced by the U.S. government while implementing AI across critical administrative systems. These case studies offer a far more accurate picture of AI's societal impact than promotional narratives ever could.

**For investors, the book** is equally useful. It helps identify which companies are merely exploiting the AI label as a gimmick and which ones possess genuine technological substance. You come away with a sharper sense of where AI is being misquoted, misused, or oversold.

The authors also briefly address popular Hollywood-style visions of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). Through clear analogies, they explain why predictive AI often fails and why these fictional expectations remain unrealistic. By the end of the book, readers are likely to shed the panic or guilt associated with "not keeping up" with AI. Instead,
they gain a calm, informed understanding of the kind of change the world is truly undergoing.

# IRRELEVANT QUESTIONS AND RANDOM ANSWERS

**1.** Is it a good idea to start my career with entrepreneurship? I don't have any background but hope and typical Indian parents.

**2.** Have you ever felt harassment and thought to share it with someone, and they didn't react sensibly enough?

**3.** Alright, quite a personal one: my texts to my loved one get only one-word replies nowadays; she keeps herself busy and has no time for me?

**4.** Dude, Please recommend me a movie in English. I don't have time to decipher the layers of directors yapping; I want entertaining ones.

**5.** Why Epstein is trending in India and in what way Stephen is related to Epstein

**1.** For starters, you have got the classic ***combo*** of ***hope and typical*** Indian parents also entrepreneurship and no *background*! Of course it's going to be a wild ride yet doable. What could go wrong? *Honestly* it could be the best or worst decision of your life. Now about the capital if you're not swimming in cash debt might *he calling you name* it is like a spicy chili either it can kick in or burn you out buckle yousself to handle the heat Good luck you ***will need it***..

**2.** Yes, been there. It feels like you're spilling your guts and hearing nothing but crickets. *Like you're talking on a frequency they just can't tune into.* Guess *there* really is no translator for the emotionally tone-deaf ones. Suggest you to find your **own tribe.**

**3. BusyBee!** Sounds like you are getting an *upgraded version of the silent treatment. My advice. Try to have an open and honest conversation.*
Let her know how you *feel* and what you *need* from the relationship.
Maybe she doesn't realize her replies are affecting you. If you have already talked and things haven't improved, maybe it's *time to reevaluate.*

**4. Predestination** – This movie is all about time travel and paradoxes, trust me it's less confusing than your love life.

5. **Because** everyone loves a good international scandal. As for Stephen's connection, maybe he RSVP'd himself to the wrong yacht party or perhaps a superposition of possibilities or maybe he is just trying to calculate the escape velocity from the whole mess.

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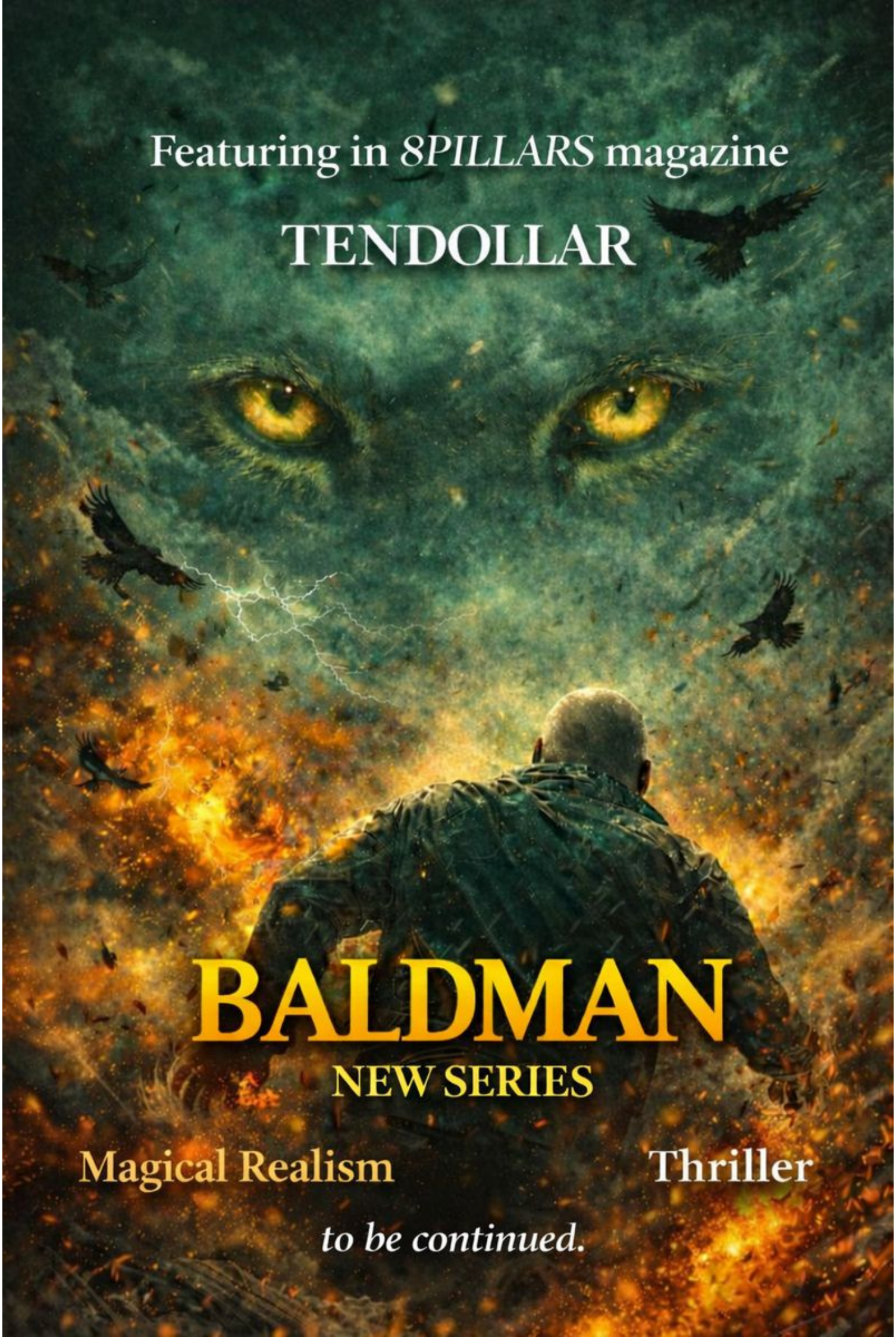
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